

What is claimed is:

1. A method for revoking a public key certificate, comprising:
- at the time of issuance, a CA requests and receives from an independent revocation service provider entity a THV corresponding to an IRV under the sole control of said
- 5 revocation service provider;
- embeds such THV into the public key certificate and digitally signs the public key certificate with a private key;
- an entity requests revocation from the revocation service provider; and
- the revocation service provider ceases publication of valid PFI updates for the
- 10 public key certificate.